CLAIMS

1.   A method of retraining a trainable data
classifier comprising the steps of:

providing a first item of training data;

comparing the first item of training data with a
second item of training data already used to train
the data classifier;

calculating a measure of conflict between the
first and second items of training data;

using the first item of training data to retrain
the data classifier responsive to the measure of
conflict.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the
step of using the first item of training data is
responsive to a predetermined conflict threshold
value.

3.   A method according to claim 2 wherein the
threshold value is non-zero.

4.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the
measure of conflict comprises a geometric difference
between the first and second items of training data.

5.   A method according to claim 4 wherein the
geometric difference comprises a Euclidean distance.

6.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the
measure of conflict comprises an association
coefficient of the first and second items of training
data.

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7.   A method according to claim 6 wherein the association coefficient is a Jaccard's coefficient.

8.   A method according to claim 7 wherein the measure of conflict is derived from a both a Euclidean distance between and a Jaccard's coefficient of the first and second items of training data.

9.   A method according to claim 8 wherein the measure of conflict is derived from a Euclidean distance and a Jaccard's coefficient composed in an exponential relationship with respect to each other.

10.   A method according to claim 8 wherein the measure of conflict is derived from a function of a Euclidean distance multiplied by an exponent of a function of the Jaccard's coefficient.

11.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the data classifier comprises a neural network.

12.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the training data comprises telecommunications network data.

13.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the training data comprises telecommunications call detail record data.

14.   A method of training a trainable data classifier comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of items of training data;

comparing a first of the items of training

data with a second of the items of training data;

calculating a measure of conflict between the first and second items of training data;

using one of the first and second items of training data to retrain the data classifier responsive to the measure of conflict.

15.   A apparatus for retraining a trainable data classifier and comprising:

an input port for receiving a first item of training data;

a comparator arranged to compare the first item of training data with a second item of training data already used to train the data classifier;

a calculator for calculating a measure of conflict between the first and second items of training data; and

an output port arranged to output the first item of training data to the data classifier responsive to the measure of conflict.

16.   A anomaly detection system comprising apparatus according to claim 15.

17.   A telecommunications data anomaly detection system comprising apparatus according to claim 15.

18.   A telecommunications fraud detection

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system comprising apparatus according to claim 15.

19.   An account fraud detection system comprising apparatus according to claim 15.

20.   An apparatus for retraining a trainable data classifier comprising:

an input port for receiving a plurality of items of training data;

a comparator arranged to compare a first of the items of training data with a second of the items of training data;

a calculator for calculating a measure of conflict between the first and second items of training data;

an output port arranged to output the first item of training data to the data classifier responsive to the measure of conflict.

21.   A program for a computer on a machine readable medium arranged to perform the steps of:

receiving a first item of training data;

comparing the first item of training data with a second item of training data already used to train the data classifier;

calculating a measure of conflict between the first and second items of training data;

using the first item of training data to retrain the data classifier responsive to the

measure of conflict.

22.   A program for a computer on a machine readable medium arranged to perform the steps of:

5   receiving a plurality of items of training data;

comparing a first of the items of training data with a second of the items of training

10   data;

calculating a measure of conflict between the first and second items of training data; and

15   using one of the first and second items of training data to retrain the data classifier responsive to the measure of conflict.